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CDXC - The UK DX Foundation

Issue 90

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DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: AUGUST.7th

CHILTERN DX CLUB - The UK DX Foundation - Aims and Objectives

From the Constitution: *"The aim of the Club will be to promote excellence in HF operating, particularly DXing, through mutual assistance and by encouraging support of DXpeditions, the issue of achievement awards, or whatever other means is deemed to be appropriate"*

From the Prospectus: *"CDXC caters for amateurs with an interest in competitive activity on the HF bands (DXing, contesting, award chasing, etc.)"*

Membership: Membership of CDXC is open to any amateur or SWL who has 100 DXCC countries confirmed on the HF bands. New members must be proposed by at least two club members.

Subscriptions: The annual subscription is currently set at £10.00 for UK members, and £15.00 for overseas members. The subscription for new members joining between 1st January and 30th June is 50% of the annual subscription. Subscriptions become due on July 1st in each year, and should be sent to the Treasurer (address above). *Please see this Newsletter for details of subscription changes from 1st Jan.*

Newsletter: This newsletter is published six times per year. Articles for publication should be sent to the Newsletter Editor (address above) by the published deadline. *Please note that opinions expressed in the Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Committee.*

It was with great sadness that I learned, just after publication of the May edition of this Newsletter, of the death of CDXC member Geoff Watts, founder of the IOTA programme, and founder/editor of DX News Sheet. Having never had the good fortune to meet Geoff, I had been very much looking forward to meeting him at the IOTA 30th Birthday celebration in October. I had had a number of exchanges of correspondence with Geoff - he was always helpful, and constructive, which typifies what he did on a much grander scale for the HF and DX community. God Bless you Geoff - your contribution to DXing will be remembered by many for a long, long time.

In recognition of Geoff's outstanding contribution and achievement, the CDXC Committee and those present at the Annual Review Meeting agreed that CDXC will sponsor *The CDXC Geoff Watts Memorial Trophy*, which will be presented to the entry in the annual IOTA contest achieving the highest checked score in the IOTA Island Stations Section (non-DXpedition section).

The IOTA contest is, of course, one of the major events during the life of this edition of the Newsletter. Following my request in the May Newsletter, I've regrettably received very little information about planned activity in the contest - for what it's worth, this is published, along with other IOTA news. I personally plan to be active for much of the contest, mainly to collect new islands. Who knows, I may even put in an entry!

Preparations for the *International HF & IOTA Convention and IOTA's 30th Birthday Party* continue apace. This promises to be the best ever HF Convention held in the UK. However, there's still much to be done, and the organising committee would still welcome volunteers, particularly to help

over the convention weekend. If you can help in any way at all, please contact Neville, G3NUG.

There will be, as usual, a special event station at the Convention, which this year, is being organised by Tony, G0OPB. The special call sign (possibly GB1OTA, but we're hoping for an even more exotic call sign) will be licensed for 28 days, and I shall again be organising a schedule of operators for the 28 days, excluding the convention weekend. If you'd like the chance of using an exotic call sign from *your* QTH, please let me know. However, I must insist on computer logs being used - I can process QSLs at a very high rate if the QSO is in the GB1OTA log on my PC. If it's on a paper log, the amount of work goes up dramatically.

You will have seen in the recent Bulletin that the Bulletin will no longer be published on a regular basis, but only when hot news needs to be communicated which can't wait for the next Newsletter. This has mainly been done for financial reasons, to save costs to offset the rising cost of producing the larger Newsletter - see graphs later in this Newsletter for more info. On the whole most people seem to support this move. However, one member feels that it's a retrograde step, as the Bulletin was an important link with the membership. He suggests that, to maintain this link, a CDXC HF Net should be established, perhaps on 80m on Sunday mornings. If *you* think this is a good idea, and would like to participate, please get in touch with David, G0HXN.

Along with the Bulletin, I issued an updated membership list. The list of paid up members is maintained by Mike, G4PFF, and any requests for changes to the list should be made direct to Mike, rather than to myself or the Secretary.

I have to say that the turn out at the ARM was disappointingly low - the lowest since I

have been a member of CDXC, and in a year when membership is at its highest. It was unfortunate that the event clashed with the Yorkshire DX gathering, which probably accounted for some absences, but, nevertheless, the general lack of interest makes the Committee, who put in a lot of work on behalf of members, sometimes wonder if it's all worth it. Let's hope for a better turn out in 1995.

The new Committee is listed on the front of this Newsletter. Special thanks are due to outgoing Committee members John, G3WGV, and Keith, G3VKW, and also to Bren, G4DYO, for his stint as Awards Manager.

One of the surprises of the ARM was the fact that a few members have indicated that they will not be renewing their CDXC membership, as they perceive CDXC as a QRO organisation, and they are QRP operators. Whilst it is true that many members do run full legal power, it is also true that there are many who don't. I for one worked 260+ countries in just a few years with 100 watts to a W3DZZ at 25 feet, before upgrading my station last year. I would urge members to try to squash this view wherever they hear it. Perhaps one of our QRP members would care to write an article for the Newsletter on QRP DXing or contesting?

On the DXCC front, there is little change in the status of those "countries" discussed in the last Newsletter. The DXAC has, however, voted overwhelmingly against re-instatement of Aldabra. Scarborough Reef, has finally been activated - I noted that G3NUG, G3OZF & G3ZAY, amongst others, managed. QSOs - well done to them! According to information on the PacketCluster network, the DXpedition closed down prematurely, around 0100z on June 26th, due to approaching bad weather. Successful activation will probably result in Scarborough Reef being added to the DXCC

countries list. However, my own personal view is that it's rather ludicrous that bits or rock such as these should be considered as a "country" (*Do I hear screams of disagreement from out there?*). Perhaps the rules should be refined to prevent this? Further documentation on the P5RS7 operation from N. Korea has apparently been received at ARRL HQ, so this one may yet count. Note that QSLs for the I2RAO/HK0 operation from Malpelo Island are not yet being accepted for credit for DXCC. It's rumoured that there will be a major operation by an OH group to Fiji/Conway Reef. I have no other info at this time.

By the way, if anyone wishes to use the CDXC logo on their letter head, I have a TIFF file available. If you'd like a copy, just send a blank, formatted, floppy disk with stamped SAE.

The CDXC Committee has received a very generous offer from a member who runs a shipping agency, who has offered to sponsor up to \$500 towards equipment shipping costs for a DXpedition including CDXC members as operators. Contact G0HXN for details.

By the time this arrives through your letter box, I shall be holidaying in TK land - no, I shan't be taking a radio! Besides, TK seems to have been pretty well continuously activated over the last few months.

Thanks to the authors of all articles, and also to DXNS, QRZ DX, and the UK PacketCluster Network. Please keep those articles coming - I can't produce a Newsletter without them!

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Barbeque on July 24th, and having a natter about DX, CDXC etc. See you there!

73 Alan Jubb, G3PMR

CHAIRMAN'S BIT

Neville Cheadle, G3NUG

I am delighted to be elected Chairman of CDXC for the next year, thank you all for your support, and congratulations to the other Committee Members on their elections or re-elections.

My apologies for not being at the ARM again this year. The month of May has been a traditional holiday time for the Cheadle family. Next year we plan to hold the ARM probably in June or July and I hope to welcome Members to our home, "Further Felden", at that time.

You will all probably have read John Linford's note in the May Newsletter and in particular his proposal regarding a CDXC Cadet Member Scheme. I am sure that this is something we should pursue actively and I look forward to discussing his detailed proposal at an early Committee meeting.

There seem to be relatively few active young DXers in the UK and I certainly agree with John that an initiative is called for by CXDC. I really do believe that we need to bring more youngsters to the fore and hopefully onto committees such as the HF, Convention, IOTA and CDXC Committees. By doing this these committees will be able to focus on matters of interest to the younger amateur and ensure that "DXing will not die of old age".

One of my current tasks is to chair the Convention Organisation Committee. We made a huge effort this year to get the programme finalised and circulated six months before the October Convention. We knew that many overseas amateurs were planning to come and that some would make a holiday of it. We have received some excellent publicity in many magazines and news sheets throughout the World. The early bookings have far exceeded our expectations with over 75 rooms booked by the first week

of June, and we expect to fill the Beaumont which has a capacity of 200 rooms.

We also expect many day visitors and some of these will be CDXC Members living in the South East. May I suggest that if any of you who are coming know of a local young amateur who is interested in DXing that you bring him or her along. The programme this year is a very broad one and should appeal to HFers/DXers of all ages and interests. My impression of the last two Conventions at Windsor was that they were dominated by the older types so let's see this year if we can reverse that trend. And please - if you are a day visitor and not on a residential package do not forget to book now for the DX Dinner and IOTA's 30th Birthday Party. Places really are limited to about 275 for the DX Dinner and those on residential packages get preference.

The CDXC Committee would appreciate Members' help over the Convention weekend. There is a tremendous amount to be done including manning the CDXC hospitality room and I am sure we should be able to attract a considerable number of new members who are keen and active DXers.

And so to IOTA. We celebrate 30 years of IOTA at this Convention and all of us on the IOTA Committee are delighted with the profile and publicity we now achieve throughout the World of DX. However, we still need to persuade more UK DXers to participate. Whereas about 500 Gs will work a major DXpedition such as South Sandwich or Kingman Reef, we estimate only about 100 pursue an IOTA DXpedition. There has been a huge amount of activity by island activators recently and IOTA is a wonderful outlet for DXers with few DXCC countries left to work. I have been an IOTA enthusiast now for about 3 years and during that time have worked about 600 different island groups. Many of these operations used low power from very remote islands all over the World.

Undoubtedly many Gs have been put off in the past by IOTA list operations, many abhor these, but nowadays there are very few, and most island activators use split frequency effectively and competently. So why not have a go? The programme is run very effectively by Roger G3KMA, our President, it's great fun, the rules are clearly set out and the awards are worth going for. The IOTA Committee is very enthusiastic about the future of IOTA and is currently preparing a ten year development plan which will be launched at the October Convention.

So, that's all from me until the next Newsletter. If any Member would like any information or has any suggestions regarding CXDC, IOTA or the October Convention please do not hesitate to call me on 0442-62929. One of my pet hates is the telephone answering machine. I do try not to use it but if you do get the machine please leave a short message and I will call you back very promptly.

Jottings of the Secretary

Dave Mann (G0HXN)

By the time you would receive this news letter, I will have completed my round Britain trip, and hopefully, if not meeting you, at least caught you on air. You will see in the News Letter the minutes of the ARM, a shame it clashed with the Yorkshire meeting, but these things do happen. You will notice from my report that there appears to be conflict with CDXC and QRP, personally I cannot see where the problem lies, one doesn't need to be QRO to get the new ones, it is just a question of patience, operating procedure, knowledge of the DX station, propagation, etc., etc. I fail to see why CDXC is perceived as QRO I do appreciate that at the moment things are a little low as far as sunspots are concerned, although on occasions you wonder if that is true. Of course it would help if you have the legal maximum available, but not all stations have the finance, QTH location, good

neighbours etc. Although I am not a QRP person as such, but I still take great delight in winding down the power, just to see how little really is required for a 59 report!!! I would be interested to know if we have any G-QRP members in our midst, so that they can put their case forward. I am luckier than most as I can "tail gate" Roger G3KMA, or Brendan G4DYO - living in between them can have its compensations, although I am told by a reliable source that John G3WGV can manage to get the elusive one before G3KMA ???????

For those of you who have contacted me regarding membership applications, please be patient I am re-doing the prospectus to take into account for the Committee changes. I hope that some of us will meet up at the next Bar B Que, which should be well in the offing by the time this News Letter is published. If not I expect to see you as many of you as possible at the IHFC in October....HAVE YOU BOOKED YET ??? It is going to be busy. Have a good summer 73 gd DX. Dave

NARL

From the UK Packet Cluster Network

This circular was received from 9N1AA

Dear OM's YL's,

NARL (Nepal Amateur Radio League) is an organisation solely devoted to opening Amateur Radio in Nepal. NARL was operative since a long time but it called register as a NGO only in 1990, after restoration of democracy in Nepal.

After a tedious struggle of promoters of NARL, in 1989, the term "HAM RADIO" was included in first amendment of Radio Act of Nepal. But, HAM RADIO was practically non-existent, and no policy was made for promotion or establishment of "HAM RADIO" here. Only one person, Late Father Marshal Moran 9N1MM was

permitted for "HAM RADIO" operation. Due to his personal contact with Royalties, he was successful in obtaining such license, not by general law of the land, but by the Royal Ordinance.

After restoration of democracy, NARL campaigned very strongly, for opening of Amateur Radio. More than 100 meetings were conducted by NARL people with parliamentarians, high level officials of government and ministers including Prime-minister, Minister of Information and communication ministry, Minister of ministry of education. Thus at policy level in 1991 NARL succeeded to convince the HMG to open radio. On action the government agreed to open Amateur Radio only after passing of proper rules by Cabinet of Ministers. It took more than one year to complete the making of rules, in spite of the fact, NARL has produced the proposed draft of rules within 15 days. The concerned rule named Radio (Communication) Licence Rules 1992 was passed in 1992. According to the rule, to get an amateur radio operator licence it is necessary to pass written, oral and morse test taken by the ministry of communication and information. Again the bureaucracy took approximately 7 month's time to fix the curriculum and to conduct test. Lastly, in 10th of June 1993 three people Satish Krishna Kharel, Suresh Raj Uprety and Ram Bahadur Gurung get licence after passing the test and got call sign 9N1AA, 9N1HA and 9N1RB accordingly. Even after getting licence non of them were on air till they could get radio equipment donated by DJ6JC.

According to the new rule DXpedition is open for any radio amateur, licensed properly elsewhere. The licenses are supposed to be granted only on the occasion of national celebrations. Maximum duration permitted for DXpedition is up to 120 days, depending on the season. In this context NARL is planning to assist foreign radio amateurs to DXpedite in Nepal.

Therefore, NARL can assist any legitimate HAM in any country willing to operate from here, as a DX station. Interested OM should write to NARL, for rules, application forms and other necessary details directly.

Though the ham radio operation is open in Nepal, due to lack of proper accessories like antenna, power supplies, morse keys there is no regular activity on air. If any radio amateur is interested to provide his old obsolete accessories (NO RADIO) like antenna, key, paddle, TNC or even old magazines or books to 9N1 amateurs or for NARL, it will be highly appreciated. Interested persons, should write to NARL for necessary documentation:

Nepal Amateur Radio League
NARL
P.O. BOX: 4292
Kathmandu,
Nepal.

CQ WPX CW 1994

Don Beattie, G3OZF

Having tried a multi-single entry twice from my station, I decided to have a go at the single operator class this year. CQ WPX CW is a more civilised version of a weekend-long contest, in that, for single operators, there is a time limit of 36 hours over the 48 hours of the contest. However, this does mean an element of "tactics" when deciding when to take the rest periods.

Having had a very full week out of the country prior to the contest weekend, I decided to start at 06.00 on the Saturday, after a night's rest. This proved to be a bad decision! HF conditions were terrible, with little more than 100 US stations and a handful of JAs in the whole weekend. LF at night time was much better, apart from high QRN levels. The contest was a chance to exercise my new FT1000, although as I was in the single operator category, I could not use the QSY facility from cluster spots.

Nevertheless, the rig interworked with K1EA's CT programme well, and it is a pleasure not to have to remember to change the band on the log ! Evaluating the FT1000, I am struck by how good the old TS930 really is. The FT1000 has had very good write-ups, but the TS930 gives it a run for its money in terms of receiver performance and sheer clarity of reception. Nonetheless, the new rig gave a very good account of itself, and in terms of man-machine interface, it comes up to the TS930 standard. In the event, I only operated for little more than 30 hours, but the final score was about 1,352,000 points with 1386 QSOs and 511 multipliers. As an introduction to CQ WPX single operator, it was fun. Next time, I'll spend more time planning when to operate so that I get some decent propagation ! By the way, many thanks to all the CDXC members who helped with comments when I had problems in the early days with my FT1000. All is resolved now, but getting it functioning to full spec was a bit of a hassle!!

HF NFD 1994

Don Beattie, G3OZF

G3OZF and G4DQW took part in HF National Field Day 1994 on behalf of CDXC. Here is a summary of their experiences.

John and I decided to try an alternative site for NFD this year. The big hill on Lord Carrington's estate near Bledlow was great once you got there, but we had had big problems getting the vehicles up the hill in past years, and it would be nice to have easier access. John has a colleague at work who has a large paddock on the top of the Chilterns near Nuffield, and we were lucky enough to get the use of this field - with easy access !

We decided to use the same formula as last year - restricted section entry, 270 foot doublet with open-wire feeders. The only

change was the use of my new FT1000 instead of the TS930. No problem, I thought. Wrong ! When we put the station together it was clear that on some bands we had big problems with RF feedback into the rig - presumably from stray high voltage fields from the feeder. After trying various combinations of ATU, earthing and repositioning the feeders, we found a compromise which avoided the problems - albeit with the ATU the opposite side of the tent from the rig !

Fortunately we avoided the worst of what must have been the wettest NFD for some time by putting up the antenna on the Friday evening. Saturday was therefore relatively relaxed until we found the RF feedback problem. Once the contest was underway, band conditions were disappointing on the higher bands - 15 and 10 particularly. The LF bands were excellent, and the total score shows some 3535 points from slightly less than 800 QSOs. Overnight the rate dropped somewhat as a result of frozen operator disease - many other CDXC members operating NFD will affirm that it was a very cold night. Sunday dawned with bright sunshine, however, and the temperature in the tent rose quickly, and memories of the bitterly cold night faded fast.

For next year, we need to fix the RF feedback problem. I would like to find a solution which has a single multi-band antenna capable of being tuned by the auto-ATU in the FT1000. That will speed band changes, which I am sure is one of the blockers to improving our score. Anyone got a really sure-fire multi-band antenna solution to NFD restricted section ?

MEMBERSHIP LIST UPDATE

Please make the following corrections to the membership list:

G3NOH new phone no is 081 723 4905

G0UCI should read G0UCT.

ADVANCE CONTEST INFORMATION

Bruce Gilson, G4WVX

Space does not permit inclusion of the full rules, so an abbreviated version is shown, together with the source of that information - thanks go to RadCom, QST and CQ magazines. For those that do not have access to these comics, I can supply a copy of the rules as published. Some of the details are from the previous year, as the latest rules have often not been published in the comics in time for inclusion here. I may well have more recent versions of the rules nearer the actual contest date.

- Jul 09/10 **IARU HF World Championship (CW & Phone)** (RC Jul 93)
1200-1200Z RS(T)+ITU Zone (UK=27)
- Jul 17 **Low Power Field Day (CW)** (RC Apr 94)
0900-1200Z & 1300-1600Z RST+Serial+County Code+Power(1W0 sent for 1W etc.)
3.510-3.560 MHz & 7.010-7.040 MHz only, Single or Multi-Op, <=10W, <=5W output
Ants not above 35 ft, no more than 2 elevated supports
Battery, solar, wind etc. power only, no generators
- Jul 30/31 **IOTA (CW & Phone)** (RC Mar 94)
1200-1200Z RST+Serial+IOTA Reference(if applicable) 80-10m
Single-Op CW only, Phone only or mixed, no DX Cluster etc.
Single-Op Limited CW only, Phone only or mixed, 12 hrs only, 3 bands only, no DX Cluster etc.
Multi-Op single Tx, DX Cluster etc. permitted
- Aug 13/14 **European DX - WAE (CW)** (RC Aug 93)
1200-2400Z RST+Serial QTCs 80-10m
Single-Op all-band, max 30 hours, Multi-Op single & multi-Tx, SWL
Work non-EU only. 4x mults on 80m, 3x on 40m, 2x on 20, 15 & 10m
- Sep 03/04 **National Field Day (Phone)** (RC Jul 93)
1500-1500Z RS+Serial 80-10m, No 10 min rule, Standby equipment permitted but
may not be connected to antennas or power supply
Open section: Single Tx/Rx or Tx & Rx, plus one additional Rx
No antenna restrictions, maximum licensed power
Restricted section: Single Tx/Rx or Tx & Rx, no additional Rx
Single-ant, single ele, 2 or less elevated supports, max height 15m agl
<=200W PEP **input power**
- Sep 03/04 **All Asia DX (Phone)** (RC Jun 94)
0000-2400Z RS+Age YLs send 00 160-10m Work Asia only

An insufficient number of scores for CQ WW WPX have come in to make it worth publishing them.

As usual, any suggestions for inclusion here, and contest sites etc., are gladly welcomed. I can be contacted via DX Cluster (@GB7DXI), the BBS system (@GB7TXA), and The Internet (Bruce@g4wvx.demon.co.uk) in addition to the details published in the newsletter

NEWS FROM THE IOTA COMMITTEE
(as published in DXNS 1621 of 15 June 1994)

A. IOTA DIRECTORY: CORRECTIONS TO ISLAND LIST

At its meeting on 4 June the IOTA Committee decided to rectify a small number of errors and omissions in the list of islands in the IOTA Directory. In each case the decision taken in 1991 would have been different, if the information now available had been known.

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

DECISION & REASON

Bassas da India Is (AF-034 FR)

Amendment. Credit will only be given for contacts made before 4 June 1994. No part of this group remains above water at high tide. The few rocks which were at one stage above water have been shot away (presumably during firing practice)!

Geyser Bank (AF-071 various prefixes)

New Group. Geyser Bank lies more than 100 miles from the nearest island in the group AF-057. Had the true status of two intervening banks been known in 1991, Geyser Bank would have counted separately.

Cyprus coastal islands (AS- 5B)

New Group. Evidence has been produced that a number of islands would qualify for a new split sovereignty (5B/ZC4) coastal group, eg Mazaki, Ayios Yeoryiou, Orphourous.

Elizabeth & Middleton Reefs (OC- VK2)

New Group. These reefs lying more than 100 miles from Lord Howe Island are above water at high tide. Elizabeth Island is 600 metres by 400 metres in size.

Northern Territory Outliers (include

New Group. These islands, previously included in Western Australia Outliers group, Ashmore, Cartier, Hibernia) (OC- VK8) are administered by Northern Territory. They also lie more than 100 miles away.

Western Australia Outliers:

Browse Island (OC- VK6)

New Group. This island lies more than 100 miles from the other W.A. outliers, Scott & Seringapatam Reefs, as well as from Ashmore and Cartier.

Sandy Island (include Scott and

Australia Seringapatam Reefs) (OC- VK6) Outliers.

Reduce Coverage. The remnant of the existing group Western

Rowley Shoals (OC- VK6)

New Group. Two large reefs in this group are above water at high tide.

Guinea-Bissau: Atlantic Coast (include
Bijagos Archip) (AF-020 JS)

Amendment to name. This group also covers the many coastal islands, e.g. Jeta, Pecixe, which are not part of the Bijagos Archipelago but would qualify.

In the case of new groups mentioned above, credit will be allowed for past operations.

A number of other omissions have been drawn to the Committee's attention but they relate primarily to sectors of coastline which on investigation appear not to have qualifying islands. In the circumstances they remain omitted. In a remainder of cases there are other factors, eg arising

from disputed or uncertain sovereignty, which have led the Committee not to take a decision at this time. The Committee is indebted to Wolfgang, DC3MF for his valuable assistance.

B.IOTA DIRECTORY: REPLACEMENT OF SOME UNNUMBERED GROUPS IN ISLAND LIST

At the meeting the Committee reaffirmed its declared policy that the island list should remain capped, at 1,175 groups. It further concluded that sufficient information was now known about the absence of qualifying islands in certain groups to justify their deletion from the list.

In discussion the Committee decided to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of IOTA by allowing this year the replacement of a small number of deleted groups by new groups which had qualifying islands. This would be a small scale revision which would not be repeated for a further five years until the 35th Anniversary.

The Committee has received a number of requests over the last three years which it will consider in this exercise. It will also consider other requests which national associations or individual island enthusiasts judge are particularly deserving. Applicants must show that they understand the IOTA rules and indicate how their proposal meets them. The Committee is unlikely to accept any proposal which fails to conform with the principles adopted in the preparation of the list. For example, arguments based on population (or lack of it), difficulty (or ease) of access, past radio operations (or lack of them), distinguished (or infamous) history or local administration (stamps, currency, etc) are irrelevant. The Committee will also not accept multiple requests. Applications should reach Martin Atherton, G3ZAY, 41 Enniskillen Road, Cambridge, Cambs CB4 1SQ by 31 July at the latest. The Committee regrets it will not be able to enter into on-going correspondence.

It is emphasised that this is not the forerunner of a general relaxation in the prohibition of new island groups. The number of replacements sanctioned on this occasion will be limited.

St. TUDWAL's (EU-106)

A multi-national team from EI/GI/GW will operate from St. Tudwal's Island EU-106 from Friday 29th July to Monday 1st August inclusive. The team will take part in the RSGB IOTA Contest. The special callsign GB0TI has been granted to the group for use during the operation.

FARNE ISLANDS (EU-109) & LINDISFARNE (EU-120)

Eric, G0KJW is organising two teams to operate from Farne Islands and Lindisfarne during the IOTA contest. Call signs are not yet known.

LES MINQUIERS (EU-099)

GJ3OZF (Ops G3OZF, G4JVG) will operate from here in the IOTA Contest.

GREEK ISLANDS (EU-001, EU-067)

Taizo, GW0RTA/N2ATT/JA3AER will operate from several Greek islands during late July/Early August. Taizo's schedule is as follows:

31st July/1st August Mikonos Is
(Cyclades, SV8,EU-067))
2nd/3rd August Rhodes
(SV5, EU-001)
4th/5th August Athens (SV1)

MEL ISLAND (SA-047)

ZZ5AM(CW) & ZZ5LL (SSB) will activate this one from August 3rd-7th.

ANGLESEY EU-124

For the 1994 IOTA contest there will be another mini-DXpedition to EU124. Dates: 29 July to 1 August 1994.

GW5LP/P will be QRV in the IOTA Contest, 1200 UTC 30 July to 1200 UTC 31 July, ALL bands Phone and CW. A contest contact may be made on EACH mode on EACH band, which means a total of 10 QSO's! Operators will be G3VMW, G4BWP, G5LP.

Before and after the contest GC4MBC will be QRV on all bands including WARC and RTTY.

QSL GW5LP/P via G5LP, GC4MBC via G4BWP. All QSL's, direct or via bureau, will be answered 100%

Spratly and Oil Exploration

As reported by the Russian ITAR-TASS News Agency out of Manila, on June 14, 1994.

The Philippine government permitted the local subsidiary of an American company 'Vaalco Energy' to commence drilling on Spratly Archipelago. A representative from the Department of Energy stated that exploratory drilling will take place for the next 6 months at Calayan island group of Spratly, controlled by the Philippine army.

Also reported is the fact that China in 1992 made a deal with another US company 'Crestown Energy' for the exploration of Spratly ocean shelf, in the 25 thousand sq. km territory of the archipelago, controlled by China.

Vietnam is strenuously objecting to the oil exploration work by the Chinese, claiming violation of sovereignty and international law.

73 de Ed/NT2X

G/OZ7SM Barbeque

A reminder that the 1994 CDXC Barbeque will be held at the QTH of Herb and Maura Asmussen on Sunday 24th July 1994. This was an outstanding event last year, and will, I am sure, be a great success this year.

In order that everyone can be accommodated indoors in the event of bad weather, a limit of 40 has been set on numbers of attendees. There are currently 25 booked, so you should lose no time if you wish to attend but haven't yet let me (G3PMR) know. Please let me have your booking by July 17th.

Please try to arrive at Herb and Maura's QTH between 11.30 am and 12.00 noon.

Details as follows:

Herb and Maura Asmussen,
Park Farm,
Gorcott Hill,
Beoley,
B98 9EN
Tel 0564 742 710

Directions:

From the M40, take the M42 W, and leave at J3 (A435) towards Redditch. In 2 miles take the Ullenhall exit. Cross Ullenhall Lane, and proceed down Gorcott Hill. Herb's QTH is about 200m down on the RHS.

From A435 South, go North up the A435, take the Ullenhall exit, and follow directions above.

From other directions, find the M42, proceed to J3, and follow directions above.

Food/Drink

Herb and Maura have very generously agreed to supply the food. Would guests please bring their own drinks (soft drinks, beer, wine - *no spirits, please*)

GEOFF WATTS (as published in DXNS 1617 of 18 May 1994)

Geoff's death announced in last week's DXNS has been mourned by many around the world. As the news spread, there was sadness that the person who for so many years had been a leading light on the DX scene had died. Geoff Watts' name was known to many thousand DXers through his sterling work over 20 years producing the DX News Sheet, through establishing IOTA, and through his production and distribution, over three decades, of his authoritative prefix/zone listings for the DX community.

IOTA is the result of Geoff's vision which was to catch the imagination of amateurs worldwide. During the 60s most DXers were concentrating on DXCC following an influx of new countries as a result of political change. IOTA took a few years to catch on but catch on it did. Geoff had introduced it by saying "Now that propagation conditions are poor, DX getting scarce, the possibility of brand new DXCC countries eventually becoming extremely remote, top DXers retiring because there is nothing new left to work, it is proposed that an entirely new DX achievement be created, the **ISLANDS ON THE AIR AWARD**, to promote more activity and interest among all DXers, many of whom could then go on a brand new island DXpedition themselves". This is as true today as when it was written in 1964!

Geoff passed IOTA on to the RSGB in 1985. This must have been as great a wrench for him as the transfer three years earlier of DXNS. His wife was in poor health and he himself was having problems with his sight. But his support for IOTA never wavered. In the last two years Geoff under his SWL call BRS3129 started to collect islands himself! He received IOTA-CC-100 certificate No.639 on 10 March 1993 - and by January this year his score had increased to 390 islands confirmed, not bad going! Quite often he would give Roger a landline to ask about a particular operation coming through there and then on the band. He was indeed a real short wave listener right up to the end.

G3OUF, RSGB Council Member and Chairman of the HF Committee, G3KMA, RSGB IOTA Director, G3IOR, G3MFQ, G4TWS and G4TWT attended Geoff's funeral in Norwich on Friday, 13 May. Wreaths were sent on behalf of the RSGB Council and HF Committee, DX News Sheet, the IOTA community and the **CDXC (Chiltern DX Club)** as well as several from individual amateurs. Our deep condolences go to his son, Hedley (G0BBV) and daughter Barbara and to the whole family. Thank you, Geoff, for your legacy to amateur radio. You can be proud of it. Rest in peace.

Roger Balister, G3KMA, RSGB IOTA Director

G3NUG'S HOLIDAY EXPEDITION CHECKLIST

I made up the following list for my recent operations as 9M2/G3NUG from various West Malaysian islands. Please note these were holiday trips and we were staying in good hotels so there was no need for batteries or camping equipment. Nevertheless I found the checklist invaluable and I hope Members will find it useful. Just send me a formatted disk if you would like a copy. 73 Neville

RIG

- HF transceiver - IC 735
- Transceiver backup (O)
- Power supply- PS55
- Power supply backup (O)
- Connection cables
- 2 microphones
- 2m / 70cm transceiver - hand-held (O)
- 2 sets of head-phones + adapters
- Carrying case
- Special jumper for IC 735
- Special screwdriver to open IC 735 case to change fuse

ANTENNAS

- R7 vertical antenna or similar
- Wire antennas such as:
 - VRDs for 17m and 20m
 - Multi-band trapped dipole
 - Backup wire antenna (G5RV)
- Coax-cables - 4 x 25m fitted with connectors + joining pieces
- 2/3 element yagi such as TH2/3 Jnr, mast, guys etc (O)
- Rotator + cable for yagi (O)
- Pulleys, rope, catapult, nylon cord
- Self-amalgamating tape
- Carrying cases for antennas eg ski-bag or tube-holder (fishing rod case) for vertical, soft bags etc
- Coax switch
- Fibreglass pole

COMPUTER

- Portable computer
- Power supply + connection cables (several)
- Mouse
- Key sw diskettes: DOS, Windows, TL, Mouse driver + 10 spares (formatted)
- Manuals: Machine + Windows + DOS
- Carrying case
- Soft bag for hand luggage

TEST EQUIPMENT

- SWR meter (built-in to IC-735)
- Multi-meter
- Antenna tuner
- 2 short lengths of coax cable with connectors

ASSORTED TOOLS

- Tool roll comprising:
 - Soldering iron + solder
 - Screw-drivers - various
 - Pliers: long-nosed, bull-nosed, instrument
 - Cutters, large and instrument
 - Stanley knife
 - Wire-strippers
 - Small file
 - Tape measure

MISCELLANEOUS

- Battery-driven 24 hour clock + spare batteries
- Compass
- Spare batteries
- TVI filters - antenna and mains
- Ferrite coils and filters
- Battery cable connectors
- Beam heading plot, great circle maps
- Propagation software + printout + band plan
- Electrical tape (some coloured)
- Small coils of wire, earth wire
- Wallplug adaptors

Heavy-duty extension cords / multi-way box
 Spare fuses - for equipment (3A for IC-735) & mains
 Terminal blocks
 Hose clips
 Dual headphone plug
 Torch
 Presents for helpers, eg 1/2 bottles of spirits
 Throat pastilles

PAPERWORK

Original + copies of CEPT licence
 Customs forms
 DX licence
 Receipts for equipment
 Log books
 Pencils, pens etc
 Correcting pen
 Equipment manuals
 Post-it notes
 Misc. correspondence

FOR THE XYL!

Walkman + tapes
 Ear plugs
 Mask
 Ear muffs

(O) = Optional

AVES ISLAND YW0RCV

Venezuela Navy celebrating 191st anniversary and the Venezuela Radio Club celebrating 60th anniversary, plan to activate Aves Island as YW0RCV in the all modes (SSB, CW AND DIGIMODE) and six bands (no WARC Bands). between the 21st of July at 00:00 UTC. and the 25th of July at 24:00 UTC. The Venezuela Radio Club (IARU MEMBER), have agreed to sponsor a special DXpedition operating from Aves Island, using the special call-sign YW0RCV.

The group of operators they will depart from La Guaira on July 19th and arrive the 20th.

RSGB 1994 International HF and IOTA Convention & IOTA's 30th Birthday Party

Bulletin No.4. This is the fourth of a series of bulletins about this year's HF and IOTA Convention.

- Dates: 7,8 & 9 October 1994.
- Location: The Beaumont Conference Centre, Old Windsor, Berks located close to the M25 and Heathrow Airport.

We have been fortunate in receiving wide publicity for the Convention in magazines and news sheets throughout the World. With four months to go the Organising Committee is now forecasting that we will fill the Beaumont capacity of 200 rooms. So if you have not booked either a residential package or for the DX Dinner and/or the IOTA Birthday Party you are advised to do so quickly. We can only accommodate around 260 for the DX Dinner and residents get preference.

The following have booked for the Convention, the vast majority have booked residential packages:

4X6ZK 4Z4DX CT1DIZ CT1EEB DF5UG
 DJ2YA DK1RV DK2OC DL1AMQ
 DL1SCQ DL1VDL DL2GAC DL2SCQ
 DL6ATM DL7CW EA5KB EI2CA EI5HD
 EI6EW EI7CC EI8CE F6AJA G/OZ7SM
 G0GJS G0HSD G0HXN G0IFM G0IMF
 G0IVZ G0LMX G0LRJ G0LUQ G0OFE
 G0OPB G0UCT G3AAE G3AEZ G3AIK
 G3FKM G3GIQ G3HTA G3IZD G3KAF
 G3KMA G3NUG G3OUF G3OZF G3PJT
 G3PMR G3RKO G3RZF G3SJJ G3SJX
 G3SWH G3SXW G3TOK G3UOF G3VJP
 G3VPW G3WGV G3WLM G3XMZ
 G3XTT G3YBT G3ZAY G3ZBA G4AIP
 G4BWP G4DBN G4DQW G4JVJ/P29DX
 G4NXG G4PDQ G4PFF G4SJJ G4SOF
 G4TJK G4WFZ G4XOP G4ZVJ GJ3LFJ
 GM3PPE GW0ANA GW0RTA GW0SLM
 GW3CDP GW3JXN GW4BLE GW4OFQ

HB9DX HB9KT HB9RG I1JQJ I2MQP
J16KVR JA1IST K5MK LA2QK LA6MP
N3ERM NN2C OE3WWB ON5KL ON6TT
PA3FQA RS95103 SM6CAS SM7PKK
SP6TPM UT8LL UY5XE W1XP W3KH
W4BAA WT2O

A Reminder - Saturday is Important: In past years many have only attended the Sunday as this has been traditionally been recognised as the "HF Day". This year is different as all three streams start at 0930 on the Saturday morning and two are solely devoted to HF topics. Very few of the Saturday lectures are repeated on the Sunday. To make the best of this Convention do try to come for the full two days.

If anyone still needs information please do not hesitate to contact me on 0442-62929.

73 Neville G3NUG

THREE YEARS AS P29DX

Steve Telenius-Lowe G4JVG

In March 1991 I arrived in Papua New Guinea at the start of a three-year contract working for the Spectrum Management Department of the Post and Telecommunication Corporation of Papua New Guinea. My position was as Manager of their Monitoring Station, a much smaller version of the DTI station at Baldock but fulfilling the same basic criteria.

When we first arrived in Papua New Guinea we stayed in a hotel, as accommodation in Port Moresby - a rapidly-expanding city of a quarter-million people - is in very short supply. I had taken the precaution of shipping out a KLM KT-34A beam, as well as Butternut HF2 and HF6V verticals, with our unaccompanied baggage, which also included a Kenwood TS930S, a Yaesu FT-747GX and a Henry 2KD Classic linear amplifier, as well as a few household necessities, clothes etc. We knew the baggage would take two months to arrive, so I was not particularly concerned to find permanent accommodation immediately - it was very comfortable indeed staying in the hotel, with all meals provided! However,

when we did start looking for houses it soon became obvious that unless we were extremely lucky we would be unlikely to find a house where it was possible to put up a beam. Accommodation in 'Moresby' is extremely expensive: a nice house with a reasonable-size garden and swimming pool (OK, not essential in England, but when the average temperature is 32 degrees with 95% humidity it becomes more of a necessity!) - such a place costs the equivalent of about \$2000 per week, when you can find them at all! Our allowance was about \$500 per week. After looking at several houses we eventually settled for a nice, large, airy detached house without a pool, but also without sufficient space in the garden for a beam.

People have asked me if it was because I was working for the Papua New Guinea licensing authority that I was able to get the callsign P29DX. The answer is no: full licensees can choose any two letters they want for their callsign providing it has not already been allocated, and most people choose their initials. P29SL, my own initials, had already been issued, but for some reason no-one had ever chosen P29DX, so the choice was easy! In fact callsigns are re-issued if they have lapsed for several years, so it is possible there may be a new P29DX in the future. Note for CW enthusiasts: P29CW is still a current call, so that callsign will not be available for quite a few years yet.

The baggage arrived about a week after we moved into the house and the very same day the Butternut HF6 was erected and the TS930S and Henry 2KD set up in a spare bedroom. Oh joy! Pile-ups! Just as you always wanted. Conditions back in May 1991 were still superb and even without a beam I found I could generate a European, North American or JA pile-up virtually whenever I went on the air.

In England I had tended to spend much more time listening than transmitting, generally searching out DX stations and very rarely calling CQ. I have been on quite a few DXpeditions, but this was the first time since 1978-79 (when I was EP2SL) that I was resident in a country rare enough to virtually guarantee a pile-up whenever I went on the air. I had the best of both worlds: I could work a pile-up whenever I felt like it, I could

chase DX myself whenever I felt like it (and most rare DX stations were delighted to be called by a P29 station through their JA pile-up!), or I could rag-chew whenever I wanted, knowing that the pile-up would still be there tomorrow. When operating on a DXpedition one is always aware that you have a very limited amount of time to activate your country, so one is always attempting to give out as many QSOs as possible. When you are resident in a rare or semi-rare country, though, there is none of that pressure. You could always spend half-an-hour trying to make a single grey-line QSO on 80 metres without feeling guilty that you are missing a short opening to a different part of the world on, say, 20 metres.

In the first few months, I tended to spend two to four hours a day on the air, often working about 300 QSOs per day. At the weekends I especially made a point of operating on 15 metres into Europe until about 1500 or 1600z (0100 or 0200 local time.) By 1993 the band was closing much earlier than this but back in 1991 it proved to be a very reliable path. I found that I had soon worked 200 countries without really trying: Caribbean and even African countries that you rarely hear outside contests from one year to the next called ME through the North American or European pile-ups. This was great stuff!

Andrew G0HSD and Don G3OZF started a regular weekly sked with me in 1991, which we kept going until I left Papua New Guinea in early 1994. Very rarely did we miss a week, although occasionally we had to drop down to 20 metres as the MUF fell.

After about four months my thoughts turned towards the forthcoming CQ WW SSB contest. Although I could generate a huge pile-up whenever I wanted when I was the only Pacific station on the band, I was under no illusions that using just a Butternut vertical I was going to put in a record-breaking score in the CQ WW contest. I needed somewhere to put up the KT-34A beam, which was still sitting in its box downstairs.

Although the headquarters of SMD and PTC as a whole were in Port Moresby, most of my working days were spent at the monitoring station, which is located at a

place called Laloki, some 20 kms north-east of the city, out in the sticks. At Laloki was a 125-foot (38-metre) high tower, supporting nine LF-HF wire receiving antennas and a rotatable VHF-UHF log-periodic. This seemed to be a suitable location for the beam! I received permission from my immediate boss to use the station (which fortunately is normally unmanned over the weekend) for the contest and assembled most of the beam in the relative cool of our house. It took 18 hours to build the beam, the last few in sweltering heat outside the station. It wasn't possible to put the beam on the big tower, but I enlisted the help of half a dozen Papua New Guineans (price: one case of beer!) and up it went up on a scaffold tower about 30 feet high.

Almost the first QSO was with G3LQP on 20m long path using a "barefoot" rig: Roger reported that my signal varied from 59+ to unreadable when beaming away from him. This boded well for the contest, when I would also be using the Henry 2K! I also persuaded our aerial riggers to put up a rope on a pulley at the 110-foot level on the tower which I used for pulling up a half-wave sloping dipole for 40 metres, sloping towards Europe, a sloping dipole towards USA on 80 metres, and an inverted-V for 160m.

The day of the contest finally came round and I found conditions superb on 10, 15, 20 and 40 metres. On 80 and 160m it was a different story, though, even with dipoles at 110 feet it was very difficult to work any stations at all other than the occasional very close VK or FK8 station. I only worked one European on 80m: OH6RF. In all I worked over 3000 QSOs, but my score suffered through lack of multipliers on the LF bands. Although well short of OH1RY's record Oceania score from Vanuatu, I ended up taking the first-place single-op place for Oceania.

My experience in CQ WW taught me that Papua New Guinea is so far from any of the major areas of population that I would need much better antennas on the LF bands if I wanted to have a competitive all-band score in future contests. I tried a two-element delta loop array on 80 metres, fixed on USA/Caribbean, supported from a catenary

rope "boom" from the 110-foot level of the tower to a suitably-placed tree 150 metres away. The first evening I tried it out I had a pile-up of LU and CE stations giving me 59 to 59+30 reports when VK3DZM - generally regarded as being the strongest signal out of the eastern states of Australia - was getting 55 or 56 reports from the same stations! I was also able to work stations that he couldn't even hear, so the delta loop array certainly seemed to be working extremely well, although I was a little surprised that it seemed to be firing towards LU and CE rather than W. I checked the direction of fire with a compass and it seemed to be correct, so I just put it down to conditions.

On 40 metres I tried a "double quad loop" - two full-wave loops in a colinear array - which was described in CQ. The bottom of the two loops were over 60 feet up in the air, and again reports seemed to suggest that I was getting out better than ever before on 40m. On 160m I used a single delta loop, but was never able to work more than the near Pacific on it. The next major contest was the ARRL in March 1992 and again I made over 3000 QSOs, with WAS on 10, 15 and 20m, and only a few short on 40m. 80m was still very disappointing though, and a KH6 - being several thousand kms closer to North America than P29 - cleaned up the Oceania honours.

With just three weeks to go before the CQ WPX contest, I could not think of any way of easily improving my LF signal further. Looking at the all-time WPX records, it looked as if the 28 MHz Oceania record could be beaten by a fairly concerted effort on that band. From my experience in CQ WW and the ARRL contest it was obvious that I was getting out very well indeed on 10, 15 and 20m, and 10 metres was still in excellent shape back in March 1992: especially for those of us fortunate enough to be within the tropics (Port Moresby is about 9 degrees south of the equator.) Because of the relatively low height of the KT-34A beam (probably less than 10 metres above ground), 28 MHz would be my most competitive band.

Being the WPX contest, though, I felt a special prefix would be in order, although it

has to be said that if you are trying to think of a better callsign to use in a contest than P29DX you have a hard time. This is where it was useful to work for the licensing authority: I had an informal chat with my boss, with a copy of the ITU Radio Regulations open to the relevant page. It isn't widely known, but if your country's prefix is made up of a letter and a digit (such as T2, T5, S2, P4 or P2), it is suggested the second digit for amateur stations should be either 0 or 1. This is not a hard and fast rule, but all other classes of station such as coast stations, land mobile, ship stations etc. have all the other digits from 2-9 assigned to them, leaving 0 and 1 for amateur and experimental stations. We decided that P21 would be a nice prefix to keep reserved for Papua New Guinea's 21st anniversary of independence celebrations in the year 1996, but he agreed that P20 should be available for "special" amateur operations, including contests. I used P20A and Paul P29PL was given permission to use P20PL, which he has also used in several other contests, mainly on CW.

Two disasters struck during the WPX contest. First - and most seriously - during the night I started shivering violently and by the Sunday morning was feeling extremely lethargic and fatigued (even more so than is normal on the second day of a 48-hour contest.) Secondly, and in the middle of a Stateside run, my power output suddenly dropped to about 10 watts when using the linear (1 watt out of the TS930S). P29PL came to the rescue and brought me his spare rig, a TS430, which got me going again, although by this time I was feeling so ill I had no real desire to continue. Conditions on the Saturday had been superb and I had already beaten the previous 28 MHz Oceania record by early on the second day of the contest. I therefore retired by early afternoon - the early hours of Sunday GMT - and the following day went to the doctor. What he told me hit me like a hammer: I had contracted a particularly nasty strain of malaria - *p.falciparum* - which, he said, if I hadn't gone in for treatment could well have killed me quickly. I was given a huge dose of fansidar in the gluteus maximus and told to rest. The diagnosis for the TS930S was just as grim: the two transistors in the PA had both blown, which cost several hundred dollars to replace. The good news was that with 2600 QSOs and a score of 5.1 Million

points I was indeed the new holder of the 28 MHz Oceania record. With the way conditions have been recently I am fairly certain the record will remain unbeaten until the next sunspot cycle, but given that I operated for less than 24 hours it should be possible for anyone putting in a concerted effort to beat it when conditions improve again.

In the summer of 1992 I took all my accrued leave and borrowed a little more in order to spent ten weeks travelling around the world. A short visit to family and friends in England and Sweden was followed by visits to Bermuda, New Orleans (taking in the first ever New Orleans International DX Convention), Los Angeles, Hawaii, Fiji, Tonga, Niue, Western Samoa and Sydney before returning to Port Moresby. Naturally with such an itinerary I had to get on the air, and made a few thousand QSOs as 3D2SL, A35VG, ZK2XG and 5W1SL, as well as 2m FM QSOs in VP9 and W5.

We returned to Papua New Guinea a few days before the CQ World Wide contest in 1992 which I had planned to operate multi-single with Don G3OZF, who was already in Singapore en route to PNG, and several other P29 amateurs. A new disaster struck: permission to use the Laloki site was withdrawn. Apparently a senior manager considered that using a professional monitoring station for amateur activities was inappropriate, even though there had been no problems whatsoever during my three previous contests from there. There was insufficient time to make new arrangements, so Don and I were forced to operate using just my verticals from the home QTH. The lack of good antennas was certainly reflected in our score: we had a lot of fun, but certainly did not set the bands alight as we had been hoping to do.

In January 1993 I made a weekend trip by light aircraft to Yule Island (OC-153) as a result of numerous requests from IOTA chasers. I had operated for a couple of hours from Yule Island in September 1991 but many people had missed that very short operation. On the return trip I was very lucky with propagation and had huge pile-ups on both 21260 and 14260 kHz, working a total of about 800 stations in all.

Many of the most active amateurs in Papua New Guinea do not live in Port Moresby, but in a place called Ukarumpa, which you would be very lucky to find on a map of the country. It is about 50 miles west of Goroka in the Eastern Highlands, and is the headquarters of the Summer Institute of Linguistics, an American-run missionary organisation dedicated to translating the Bible into all the indigenous languages of Papua New Guinea (over 800 at the last count.) Three of the Ukarumpa hams had planned to operate CQ WW with Don and me the previous October, but because of the disappointment then, and because I still hadn't found a new location for my beam, they invited me to Ukarumpa to operate CQ WPX with them in March 1993. Steve P29SC was on leave in USA but had kindly offered the use of his QTH for the contest. He has a monster 4-element quad for 10, 15 and 20m, and Pete P29CW and Dave P29DK put up a 2-element phased vertical array for 40m. I arranged for the use of the call P20X, and Shoji P29JA and I flew up from Moresby in a light aircraft owned by the SIL organisation with my Henry 2K as baggage. The contest went extremely well, the big quad and the Henry were obviously putting out an excellent signal and signals from Europeans on 15m in particular were very strong, with pile-ups even bigger than usual. Although one of the operators had never been in a contest before (this was indeed a baptism of fire for him!) everyone had a great time and we raked up a score of about 13 Million, beating the previous Oceania multi-single record by a margin of 4 Million points. This success created considerable contest enthusiasm in Ukarumpa and were it not for the fact that four of the eight P20X operators have now left Papua New Guinea I suspect that P2 would not be quite as rare a multiplier in contests in the future.

It was around this time that I really noticed that conditions were deteriorating markedly. Although I still held my weekly sked with G3OZF, signals were now much weaker and following the sked there were often only two or three stations calling me, compared with what seemed to be the unlimited numbers of several months earlier.

During the Easter holidays in 1993 we went to Vanuatu and I operated as YJ0AVG using 100 watts to the Butternut vertical.

However, conditions were extremely poor for the full week and it proved difficult to get any runs going on any band. I did not work or even hear a single European station on 15m and it was hard to believe that a couple of weeks earlier we had huge European pile-ups on 15m at P20X.

During 1993 my activity declined considerably, mainly due to the very poor conditions that were the norm for much of the year. The deterioration in propagation between the superb conditions I experienced in 1991 and the abysmal conditions of mid-1993 was both more severe and more sudden than I had expected. Also, much of my radio time was devoted to preparations for the Mellish Reef DXpedition in September that year. I had met Murray WA4DAN at the New Orleans DX convention in August 1992 and for months we had planning skeds most weekends on 20m, with VK4CRR, V73C, VK4DHM, K5VT and VK2BEX joining in. Unfortunately propagation never allowed G3WGV to participate, although he was kept in touch by FAX and letter, but towards the end those of us in the Pacific area even had difficulties in working Murray and Vince.

One of my colleagues at the monitoring station was a young Papua New Guinean called Aksie. He had gone as far as getting a novice amateur licence (P29NAG) some years earlier, but had let it lapse. He had shown some interest in my contest activities from the station, so I encouraged him to take out his licence again. He lived close to the monitoring station, out in the sticks with plenty of space for antennas, so I asked him if I could put up my beam at his house (on the understanding that I could use it for contests, of course!) He willingly agreed and we borrowed a TS440S to enable him to get on to the novice segments of 21 and 28 MHz. The beam was just above roof height, but probably only about 20 feet above ground. It still worked, although it was obviously not ideal. For the low bands I could no longer use the big mast, so we put up my Butternut HF2 with plenty of radials behind Aksie's house. Aksie made quite a few QSOs, mainly with JA stations on 15m, which was great for him as he was being sent on a radio monitoring training course in Tokyo, paid for by Japanese overseas aid. While in Japan he attended the huge JA ham

convention in Tokyo and met up with several of the operators he had QSOs with.

The first contest I did from Aksie's QTH was the IARU HF Championship in July 1993. We represented the Papua New Guinea Amateur Radio Society as a HQ station (by this time I was treasurer of the Society and thus on the executive committee - the PNGARS, by the way, has about as many members as a medium-sized local radio club in England, or CDXC for that matter!) We used the P20A callsign again and Shoji P29JA and I shared most of the operating, while Aksie made a few QSOs with VK and JA stations during some of the quiet periods. Although conditions were poor, and the antennas less than ideal, it was better than not being able to get on the air at all and I believe Aksie especially enjoyed the experience. Incidentally, this is almost certainly the first time ever that a Papua New Guinean national had participated in an international radio contest.

Two weeks after the IARU contest was the RSGB's first-ever IOTA contest and again I used Aksie's QTH for this event. When I started at 1200z (10.00 p.m. local time) 10m and 15m were completely dead, I worked about twenty stations (including V73C operating as V7A) on 20m before that band died, and there was no contest activity on 40 or 80m. I therefore decided to sleep through the night and got up at 5.00 a.m. only to find 20m buzzing with activity, and V7A some 700 QSOs ahead of me! This was obviously a tactical error of some considerable magnitude, but since V73C was one of the Mellish Reef operators I was due to meet two months later, I was determined to show him that I was as good an operator as he was, so I operated the rest of the contest without a break, making 1384 QSOs in about 16 hours of actual operation. I found conditions excellent after my slow start - surprising bearing in mind the poor conditions during the IARU contest two weeks before - and the pile-up was continuous until the very end of the contest, with no further slow periods at all. VK9NS had started the contest with the intention of putting in a winning entry but, he told me later, had found conditions very poor and in the end he did not even submit his log. I find it amazing that a geographical change of a few thousand kilometres can make such an immense difference to how conditions are

perceived. I managed to claw back 100 of the 700 QSO advantage which V7A had over me, but Ken went on to take single operator world first place and I ended up in second place, so felt honour was satisfied.

After the VK9MM Mellish Reef expedition in September, I concentrated more on the LF bands from my home QTH, changing the Butternut HF6 for an HF2 which I am convinced gives superior performance on 80m, if not on 40. I worked a few antipodean QSOs on 80m such as D44BC and several PY stations, but always had great problems working Europe on that band. In the winter I started a regular weekend sked with G3OZF on 40m long path at around 0730z. I transmitted on 7293 kHz, which was an absolutely clear frequency in the U.K. at that time, but without Don's efforts to alert British and other European stations of my existence on that frequency I would have had very few QSOs. 40m DXers should be aware that it is not only USA stations which can transmit up to 7300 kHz, but many very choice DX countries too, especially in the Pacific area. So listen up, there could be a VK9, ZL8, ZK3 or P29 calling! My greatest difficulty on 40m long-path QSOs was hearing the weak European stations through the 59+ JA's which were on almost every available frequency below 7100 kHz.

Around this time the PNG National Broadcasting Commission was having some long overdue renovations, with a new 100-kW HF transmitter, a 10-kW MF transmitter and a new 112-metre high (370 feet) vertical antenna being installed just down the road from my home QTH. It says a lot for the front end of the TS930S that I could operate on any band at any time with a 100-kW transmitter operating into a 9 dBi gain antenna within line of sight of my antenna with no problems at all. The consultant engineer overseeing the installation of the new transmitters and antennas was Greg WE0D (P29VGC). While not a keen DXer himself, he thought it would be interesting to see how well the 370-foot vertical got out on 160m, so one night after the MF station closed down at 1400z we took a TS940S and TL922 which belonged to NBC along to the station to try it out. The results on 160m were very disappointing: we worked a VK2 at 59+ signals both ways, but despite dozens of CQ calls, no other QSOs resulted.

We went down to 80m, where we worked several VE7, W7 and W6 stations, and asked for skeds with them on 160m. Unfortunately no QSOs resulted and back on 80m we were told that there had been three W6's calling us on topband, but we could not hear them through the S9+ static level. Around 1530z 80m started opening to Europe, but unfortunately we could not stay late enough for the band to open to Western Europe. I made arrangements with Greg to try again the next week, when we could stay all night until the NBC station opened up again. Again, no QSOs on 160m, despite skeds with well-equipped stations in USA, but 80m was good to Europe. Although I worked plenty of DL, PA, ON and F stations, I did not hear any G's. After returning to England, Roger G3KMA told me I had been a genuine 58 signal and there were plenty of G's calling, but I did not hear any of them. Again the problem was the S9+ QRN, and none of the European signals were sufficient to completely overcome the static, so it was a matter of listening between the static crashes, sometimes picking out one or two letters of a callsign at a time. We were using a DSP-9 digital noise filter, but I found that although it did decrease the noise level somewhat the loss of fidelity was so great that it did not improve readability of the wanted signals at all.

Before having access to the 370-foot vertical I had worked just four or five Europeans on 80m in nearly three years of operating. A run of Europeans on 80m was therefore quite exciting for me, and a great way to end my activity as P29DX. I made about 40,000 QSOs altogether, about half in contests. At the end of February 1994 I had to pack up all the gear for the long journey back to the U.K. As of today - 31st May - I have still not received it, although I gather it did arrive at Southampton docks a couple of days ago. Where next? G3OZF and I will be entering the IOTA contest in July as GJ3OZF from Les Minquiers (EU-099), but after that I have no plans. Any offers?!

DJ8NK/G5DMC

I hear that Jan, DJ8NK has been re-issued with his old call, G5DMC. Jan is probably only the second G5+three in the current list.

A Prediction for the Coming Solar Minimum

**Patrick S. McIntosh, NOAA
Space Environment Lab,
Boulder Colorado**

Everyone has been talking about the extremely low level of sun spot activity in recent months. Sunspot minimum should not occur until 1997 if the canonical 11 year cycle is accepted, yet it sure looks like the sun is heading for the cellar! Extrapolation of the present trend suggests sunspot minimum some time in 1995. The previous minimum was September 1986.

The trend in daily values of 10.7 centimeter radio flux in September continued a rapid downward trend that has been present since March 1993. This trend, and the values of the flux, resemble the daily 10.7 cm flux values observed in 1984, suggesting that the present cycle is at the same point in the cycle. That was only nine years ago, reinforcing tentative predictions that the present cycle will end after only nine years, becoming the shortest cycle in over 200 years! The last cycle recorded at near nine years in length was cycle number three, which peaks in 1778.

A tentative prediction of a nine year cycle was presented to the IAU Colloquium no. 143 in June (1993?) after updating comparisons among the five solar cycles for which there are 10.7 cm flux data. The cycles were plotted one under the other on a single graph, placing the cycles in alignment by use of the abrupt drop in flux that has occurred at the end of the maximum phase of each cycle. This drop was the most dramatic in the present cycle, occurring early in 1992. When the cycles are so aligned, other than critical points in the cycles align better than when the cycles are aligned with their times of sunspot minima.

These points include the highest peak flux of each cycle and a post-maximum peak that occurred in all but Cycle 19. The times of minima at the end of the cycles, except for the anomalous Cycle 20, align more closely than the minima at the beginning of the cycles. This suggests a possibility that there is a constant interval of about 3.5 years between the abrupt drop in flux and the times of sun spot minimum. Using this supposition, the date of the coming sun spot minimum would be in the last quarter of 1995, resulting in a nine year length to the cycle. The most anomalous time of starting minimum is that of the present cycle, suggesting that the cycle had a true start 8-9 months earlier than the September 1986 sunspot minimum.

Hathaway et al (submitted to the Astrophysical Journal, 1993) also concluded that the real start of the cycle was earlier than the sunspot minimum would define, using a fresh approach to a statistical treatment of sunspot numbers.

SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE! From Mike, G4PFF

Please note that CDXC subscriptions for the year 94/95 are due on 1st July. Subs this year will remain the same, i.e. £10.00 for UK members and £15.00 for our overseas members. All subscriptions will increase by £2.00 from 1st January 1995. If you pay by Standing Order then you will need to amend your order with your Bank before the 95/96 subs are due. Plenty of time and I will remind everyone later in the year. As I expect to be very busy during the HF/IOTA Convention and to avoid additional costs in sending out reminders, please send me your subs ASAP, try not to leave it until the Convention. Please send cheques made out to CDXC to :- Mike Potter G4PFF, 38 West St, Gt Gransden, Sandy, Beds, SG19 3AU, U.K.

ANNUAL REVIEW MEETING

Saturday 14th. May 1994

QTH G3WGV John Linford

Attended: G6LX, G3KMA, G3PMR, G3USX, G3VKW, G3WGV, G4LJF, G4PFF, G4UXG, G0HXX

1. Apologies for absence: These were received from: G3NUG, G4WVX, G3OUF, G3PJT, G3XTT, G4AZN, G4MUT, G3OZF, G4DYO.

2. Minutes of the previous ARM: G6LX proposed that (with a minor amendment) the minutes as they appeared in the July 93 issue of the CDXC News Letter be accepted. Seconded by G3PMR. The proposal was accepted.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes: With reference to the SHOW/GO command. G3WGV and G4LJF gave a brief summary of this command on Packet Cluster.

4. Chairman's Report: John G3WGV reflected on some of the happenings in 1993/94 and that the club had remained fairly constant in membership, and his involvement in a Major DXpedition to Mellish Reef. He was sorry that work commitments had curtailed his involvement with the club as much as he would have liked, and this was one of the reasons he was not seeking re-election for this year. He drew attention to the article that was published in the News Letter regarding Youth Activity, and went on to explain about the way Reading Club was bringing younger members into Amateur Radio, and that our commitment must be to introducing a more younger element to DXing, and all that it entails. It was with some sadness that it was noted that two members had died during the year, the most recent being Geoff Watts, and earlier in the year G4IJW John Woodham. At this stage Roger G3KMA who attended Geoffrey's funeral in his position as Director of IOTA gave an obituary on both members.

He reported that at Geoff's funeral Representatives from amateur radio had attended as well as floral tributes from the RSGB, IOTA, DXNS, and CDXC. John expressed the club's sympathy to Geoff's family. (A letter of condolence had been sent to the family of John from the club, the news of his death only reaching us after the funeral). John finished by saying that he had enjoyed his tenure and wished the new Chairman every success.

5. Secretary's Report: Dave G0HXX reviewed some of the activities of the year, including our sponsorship of three major expeditions, Mellish Reef, Peter 1st. and Banaba. Membership remained constant at c150. The club is now represented in 13 DXCC countries, it was 14 but Steve G4JVG has now returned from P29. Social events were still thin on the ground, which was to be expected considering the huge catchment area of the club. He reflected on last years IHFC at Windsor where CDXC was very well represented on the organising committee, as it is this year, plus top table representation at the dinner was also well represented by CDXC. He mentioned that correspondence and telephone conversations with members throughout the year were fairly regular, and had taken the opportunity when travelling around the UK in having the odd "eyeball" with members. One of the topics that came up over and over again was the subject of QRP and where it fits into the perceived image of CDXC. (There followed a short discussion on QRP and DXing). He concluded that he had received mail from all over the world asking for information including The Seychelles, and St. Lucia. Would these become countries 14 and 15?

6. Treasurer's Report: Mike G4PFF presented an income & expenditure report showing on the bottom line that the club was in a good financial state, although when analysed further it appears that expenditure per member was in excess of income by some 39 pence, although this was distorted

by the excellent income from Software Sales, without these expenditure over income per member would have been £2.83. Donations this year were some £700.00. The main expenditure was the cost of production and postage of the Newsletter.

The accounts were proposed by G6LX and seconded by G3PMR. There were no objections.

7. Election of New Committee: John G3WGV remained in the Chair for the election of officers for the 1994/95 year. The results were as follows:

President: Roger G3KMA
Proposed by G3WGV
Seconded by G3PMR

Chairman : Neville G3NUG
Proposed by G3PMR
Seconded by G3WGV

Vice Chairman: Ian G4LJF
Proposed by G0HXN
Seconded by G3KMA

Secretary: Dave G0HXN
Proposed by G3VKW
Seconded by G6LX

Treasurer: Mike G4PFF
Proposed by G3KMA
Seconded by G3PMR

New Letter Editor: Alan G3PMR
Proposed by G6LX,
seconded by G4PFF

The second Vice Chairman Ron G6LX proposed by G3VKW and seconded by G4LJF. It was agreed that this position would have special responsibility for CDXC Awards.

8. A.O.B. Although no business had been notified the meeting then went into open Forum.

(i) It was proposed by G4PFF and seconded by G6LX that as from 1 January 1995 the

subscriptions be increased from £10.00 to £12.00 for UK members, and from £15.00 to £17.00 for overseas members. After discussion this item was agreed.

(ii) The provision of a CDXC badge was discussed and it was agreed that a new badge of a substantial material be made part of a new membership package.

(iii) That the provision of a rubber stamp with the club logo be investigated.

(iv) A member made a very generous donation to any Major or Minor CDXC DXpedition in 1994/95 of up to \$500's worth of air freight.
APPLICATIONS THROUGH THE COMMITTEE.

(v) Ian G4LJF brought up the discussion of club ties, T-shirts etc. This would be investigated as to cost.

(vi) It was proposed by G3PMR and seconded by G6LX that the single page Bulletin be discontinued as a matter of course, and would only be published when there was something urgent to report. This was mainly for cost reasons. After discussion this was agreed.

(vii) It was proposed by G3KMA and seconded by G3WGV that CDXC sponsor a Geoff Watts Memorial Trophy for the IOTA Contest. This proposition was accepted, the nuts and bolts of the award to be discussed in Committee.

(viii) John G3WGV presented his paper on youth activity within Amateur Radio, and after discussion it was agreed that the new committee would follow this through and promote the club to the younger element, this might involve redefining the parameters on which CDXC is based, but before any changes could be made an general meeting would have to agree.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 1645.

CHILTERN DX CLUB

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 1993-1994

INCOME	Pounds
SUBSCRIPTIONS	1575.20
SOFTWARE SALES	365.00
ADVERTISING	125.00
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	<u>2065.20</u>

EXPENDITURE	
PRINTING & POSTAGE	1271.68
RSGB AFFILIATION	16.00
COMMITTEE EXPENSES	16.32
DONATIONS	
MELLISH	300.00
PETER 1st	300.00
BANABA ANTENNA	100.00
<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>2004.00</u>

CASH STATEMENT

CURRENT ACCOUNT	
B/F 92/93	190.63
INCOME	2065.2
BANABA FUND BALANCE	55.67
TOTAL	2311.50
LESS EXPENDITURE	2004.00
BALANCE ON HAND	307.50
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	
OPENING BALANCE	1262.36
INTEREST EARNED	6.34
CURRENT BALANCE	1268.70
TOTAL BALANCE ON HAND	
CURRENT ACCOUNT	307.50
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	1268.70
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>1576.20</u>

FINANCIAL STATEMENT PREPARED 25-4-1994

J M POTTER G4PFF
TREASURER CDXC

CDXC NOTE TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1993/94

CURRENT LIABILITIES	
PRINT & POST MAY NEWSLETTER SAY	175.00

INVOICED NOT OVERDUE	
ADVERTISING MAY NEWSLETTER	25.00

INVOICED ADVERTISING OVERDUE > 3MONTHS	45.00
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AVERAGE MEMBER EXPENDITURE VS SUBSCRIPTION**152 MEMBERS**

PRINT & POST	8.37
DONATIONS	4.61
OTHER EXPENSES	0.21
TOTAL	13.19

AVERAGE SUBSCRIPTION	10.36
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EXCESS EXPENDITURE OVER SUBS	2.83
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INCOME PER MEMBER ADDITIONAL TO SUBS

SOFTWARE SALES	2.40
ADVERTISING	0.82
TOTAL	3.22

TOTAL SUBS PLUS ADDITIONAL INCOME	13.58
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TOTAL INCOME - EXPENDITURE PER MEMBER	0.39
--	-------------

Notes are illustrative only ,due to effects of averaging and rounding

BANARA WARC BANDS ANTENNA FUND

INCOME	AMOUNT
RSGB DX FUND	100.00
CDXC	100.00
INDIVIDUAL	205.00
CDXC DINNER RAFFLE	49.00
TOTAL INCOME	454.00

EXPENDITURE	
A3WS INC CARRIAGE	386.85
CDXC RAFFLE PRIZE	11.48
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	398.33

BALANCE IN FUND	55.67
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CDXC VALUE FOR MONEY ?

From Mike, G4PFF

Elsewhere in this issue you will find the 93/94 accounts and a reminder to pay this year's subscription. As you write out your cheque consider what membership has cost this last year. Some figures from behind the finances:

We have at year end 152 members. Average subscription was £10.36 We spent on services each member £13.19

So how do we give you more than you pay for? Simple, by additional income from software sales and advertising. How can you help further?

- Promote CDXC to other like minded DXers
- Consider using G3WGV log (Details from G3PMR)
- Support our advertisers, mention CDXC when you make a purchase. (You may even get a little extra off the price)
- Send in your subs *now* to avoid the cost of reminders

73 Mike G4PFF

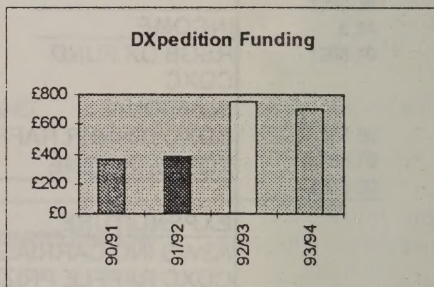
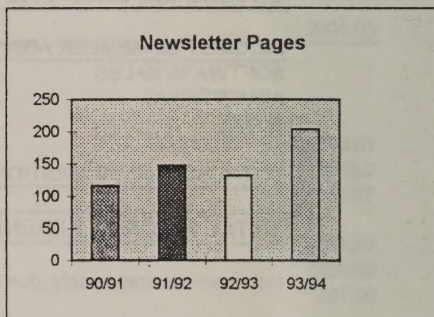
DON'T FORGET!!!!...

- To register for the International HF and IOTA Convention & IOTA's 30th Birthday Party.
 - To pay your subscription promptly!
 - To let me know whether you will be going to Herb's BBQ.
 - That CDXC gives great value for money!
 - To have fun with Dxing!
-

- That the deadline for articles for the September Newsletter is August 7th.
- That I can't produce a Newsletter without input from members!
- The IOTA Contest, July 30th/31st 1200 UTC Saturday 30th July to 1200 UTC Sunday 31st July. The complete rules for this contest were published in the May Newsletter.

CDXC VALUE FOR MONEY? - II

The CDXC subscription has remained at £10.00 for UK members for a number of years. Here is what's happened to the size of the Newsletter and the contribution to DXpeditions over the last few years.



DX CALENDAR - *Tnx DXNS*

Til mid-94	JW5NM	Jul 11-24	KC6 by SM6FJY
Til Jul	FT5XJ	mid-Jul	S79MD goes QRT
Til Jul	JW5EBA	Jul 15-17	OC-185
Til Jul	D2/HB9AMO	Jul 16-17	SEANET CW Contest
Til Jul	TY1IJ	Jul 16-17	HK DX Contest
Til Jul 2	3W by W's?	Jul 18-Aug 10	7Q by ON6TT
Til Jul 11	NA-148	Jul 21-25	AVES ISLAND
Til Jul 17	D2 by ON6TT	Jul 23-24	Venezuela CW Contest
Til Jul 28	Sp VE calls	Jul 23-24	SEANET CW Contest
Til Aug	PY0TUP	Jul 29-30	1st Russian Ctst
Til Aug	4S7 by ON's	Jul 30-31	1994 IOTA CONTEST
Til Sep?	TT8 by F5OIJ	Jul/Aug	FR/G
Til Sep?	V31PA	Aug 6	European HF Champ.
Til Nov	Zn 2 VE8/VE2BQB	Aug 13-14?	WAE CW Contest
Til Dec	4L1HX by IK2BHX	Aug 13-14?	Maryland QSO Party
Til Dec	DL9GMM/5N0	Aug 20-21	SEANET SSB Contest
Til Feb 95	3D2QB	Aug 20-21	SARTG RTTY Contest
Til Aug 95	ET3JR by FD1PJQ	Sep 3-4	All Asian SSB Ctst
Til 1996	AF-032 5H1JB	Sep 3-4?	LZ DX CW Contest
Jun 22-Jul 18	EU-047	Sep 10-11	WAE SSB Contest
Jun 23-24	NA-058	Sep 17-19	Scandinavian CW Ctst
Jun 23-30	ZF2GT	Sep 24-25	Scandinavian SSB Ct
Jun 24-26	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	Sep 24-25	CQ WW RTTY Contest
Jun 24-26	SCARBORO' REEF	Oct 1-2	VK/ZL/Oceania SSB Ct
Jun 24-26	SA-020	Oct 7	GMDX MEETING
Jun 25-26	RSGB 160m CW Ctst	Oct 7-9	HF/IOTA CONVENTION
Jun 25-26	EU-155	Oct 8-9	VK/ZL/Oceania CW Cts
Jun 25-26	ARRL Field Day	Oct 16	RSGB 10/15m CW Ctst
Jun 25-Jul 30	NA-130	Oct 29-30	CQ WW SSB Contest
Jun 27	HB0 by G's	Nov 12-13	WAE RTTY Contest
Jun 27-Jul 10	KH2 by SM6FJY	Nov 19-20	Austrian CW Contest
Jun 29-Jul 10	OY/SM3TLG	Nov 19-20	RSGB 160m CW Ctst
Jun 30	EL2FD QRT	Nov 26-27	CQ WW CW Contest
Jul	700CW by N4GCK?	Dec 3-4	ARRL 160m Contest
Jul 1??	Canada Day Contest	Dec 10-11	ARRL 10m Contest
Jul 1-21	ZS6IR on LF		
Jul 1-26	OC-129		
Jul 2-3	Venezuela SSB Ctst		
Jul 2-11	SA-026		
Jul 3-11	SA-008		
Jul 3-22	EU-064		
Jul 6-11	HB0 by PA's		
Jul 7-10	4U1ITU by KB2R		
Jul 7-14	NA-073		
Jul 9-10	IARU Contest		
Jul 9-10	RSGB SWL Contest		

THAT's ALL FOR NOW

Well, that's it for this time. A rather smaller Newsletter than it's been of late, solely due to the quantity of input received. Please let me have items for the September Newsletter by August 7th. There must be lots of mini holiday style DXpeditions that can be written about, together with experiences in the IOTA Contest.

73 Alan Jubb, G3PMR

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